



ARC-OVER

October 2014

CVC Annual Radio Swap Meet

Take a step back in time to the Golden Age of Radio at the 16th annual Antique Radio Show and Sale on Saturday, October 4th, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds front entrance, 900 N. Broadway in Turlock.

The Central Valley Chapter of the California Historical Radio Society will feature vintage radios & parts, raffles and an information booth where you can get free appraisals, sign up for repairs or find your grandparents' old radio.

The California Historical Radio Society is a non-profit organization.

Attention TARC Members

The next General Meeting is:

Date: Tuesday, October 14th

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: War Memorial, Turlock

TARC Fall Auction Postponed

TARC's Fall Auction is postponed. Please check our website, www.W6BXN.org for more information and a new date for our next auction.

Prez Sayz

By Ron Roos, KJ6KNL

There was a good turn out for our September meeting. It was decided to postpone our auction because Grady would not be able to be the auctioneer.

During the meeting the membership voted to authorize the officers to look into obtaining a DMR repeater.

We have a couple of events coming up that will require club participation. If you have access to a hand held and would like to help, contact one of the officers. Check "Upcoming Events" on Page 5 for more info.

Remember to check into the Beer and Pizza net held week days at 6:30 a.m.

Sincerely,

Ron KJ6KNL



Pacificon 2014

A REGIONAL ARRL CENTENNIAL EVENT - Celebrating 100 Years of ARRL

Pacificon 2014, celebrating 100 years of the [ARRL](http://www.arrrl.org), returns to the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel at 2700 Mission College Blvd in Santa Clara, California. The convention takes place Friday, October 10th through Sunday, October 12th, 2014. Pacificon 2014 is the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, produced by the [Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club \(MDARC\)](http://www.mdarc.org).

Pacificon gives you three great days of activities for one low cost: A full slate of outstanding Forum presentations about a wide range of amateur radio topics, a large Vendor Expo filled with exciting products and exhibits, an outdoor Swap Meet, great QRP activities, great Youth Activities including electronics kit building and soldering classes, a One Day Class to prepare you to pass the amateur Technician license examination and get your first amateur radio license, a chance to hear about and discuss important national amateur radio issues with top ARRL leaders, a chance to win great radios and other prizes throughout the convention, and perhaps the best part - a chance to interact and share information with lots of other amateur radio enthusiasts to further (or begin) your own knowledge and to advance the hobby.

For additional information and to register go to www.pacificon.org

"Last Man Standing" Special Event Set for September 28

The ARRL Letter, September 19, 2014

A Hollywood-style Amateur Radio special event is set for later this month from the so-called "Seinfeld Stage" on the CBS Studio Center lot in Studio City, California. The K6H "Hollywood Hamnado" special event station will be on HF and D-STAR on September 28, from 1400 until 2200 UTC. Hosts for the event will be Amateur Radio crew members of the ABC television series "Last Man Standing." On the show, actor Tim Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT. The show's producer is John Amodeo, NN6JA

The Southern California-based PAPA Repeater System, in association with the Broadcast Employees Amateur Radio Society (BEARS) and Disney Emergency Amateur Radio Service (DEARS) are sponsoring the special event.

Operation will take place on 10, 20, and 40 meters on HF and D-STAR reflector 12A. Rob Antonacci, AA6RA, said K6H is planning to run three SSB stations, operating on or around 28.420, 14.250, and 7.260 MHz. The [PAPA](http://www.papa.org) website, the [W5KUB](http://www.w5kub.com) chat room, and the [Mike Baxter KA0XTT Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mikebaxterka0xtt) page will provide up-to-the-minute updates.

K6H also will use the Disney Amateur Radio Interconnect to link the WB6AJE repeater in Los Angeles to Disney/ABC-sponsored repeaters in Manhattan-Bristol, Connecticut; Washington, DC, and Orlando, Florida. Various IRLP and EchoLink nodes will be available. Those contacting K6H will receive a limited-edition QSL card.

Tom Medlin, [W5KUB](http://www.w5kub.com), will be on Stage 9 to interview the participants and report on the special event activity. The [PAPA](http://www.papa.org) website will stream video directly from the operating stations. So far, 26 members of the "Last Man Standing" crew have been inspired by the show's Amateur Radio component to get licensed. -- Thanks to [Rob Antonacci](http://www.robantonacci.com), AA6RA

Turlock Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2014

Call to Order: A general meeting of the TARC was held at the War Memorial, Turlock, California on September 9, 2014. The meeting convened at 7:06 PM. Ron Roos, KJ6KNL, President, presiding; Spencer Boyd, KJ6ART, Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Ron Roos, KJ6KNL.

In Attendance: Twenty-four members and guests signed in.

- Approval of General Meeting Minutes: Bambi Schmidt, KI6YQL, made a motion to approve the August General Meeting minutes. Seconded by Darren Nunes, K6RDJ. Motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report: Mike Smith, KG6VFL, presented his report.
- Vice President's Report: Darren brought up the idea of a transmitter hunt and announced the dates of upcoming events.
- Trustee's Health: Ron, KJ6KNL, said that Grady Williams, K6IXA, had been in the hospital. Ron also said that he is awaiting surgery. Otherwise Grady is recovering well.
- Membership Chairman: Stan Williams, KJ6BKZ, introduced TARC's newest members, Randy Withers and Ed Dara.
- Repeater Committee: Spencer, KJ6ART, said that the club is still looking for backup batteries for Mt. Bullion. He also said the new router will be put in place on the next trip.
- Auction: Due to Grady Williams not being available as auctioneer for the Fall Auction, Mike, KG6VFL, made a motion to postpone the Fall 2014 auction. Seconded by Vaughn Wilson, K6IMN. Motion passed. A new auction date has not yet been set.

New Business:

- ISS Digipeater: Dick Decker, K6SUU, made an offer to loan out his packet enabled radio for the use of sending packets through the ISS.
- DMR Repeater: Dick, K6SUU, explained the recent construction on many DMR repeaters in the region. Dick continued by making a motion for the TARC board of directors to investigate constructing a TARC DMR repeater. Seconded by Marge Lowe, KB6DXM. Motion passed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Morse Learning Machine Challenge

Catching on with Hams

The ARRL Letter September 11, 2014

Experimenter [Mauri Niininen](#), AG1LE, of Lexington, Massachusetts, reports that his [Morse Learning Machine Challenge](#) has been catching on among members of the Amateur Radio community. The goal of the competition is to build a machine that can learn how to decode audio files containing Morse code. Niininen said his project has been approved by [Kaggle](#), which bills itself as "the world's largest community of data scientists." Niininen said that it takes humans many months of effort to learn Morse code, and, after years of practice, the most proficient operators can decode Morse code up to 60 or more words per minute

"Humans have extraordinary ability to quickly adapt to varying conditions, speed, and rhythm. We want to find out if it is possible to create a machine learning algorithm that exceeds human performance and adaptability in Morse decoding."

The computer-generated Morse data for the competition includes various levels of added noise. The signal-to-noise ratio, speed, and message content of the files vary randomly to simulate real-life ham radio HF Morse communication.

"I hope to attract people from the Kaggle community, who are interested in solving new, difficult challenges using their predictive data modeling, computer science, and machine learning expertise," Niininen added.

During the competition, participants will build a learning system capable of decoding Morse code, using development data consisting of 200 WAV audio files containing short sequences of randomized Morse. Data labels are provided for a training set, so participants can self-evaluate their systems.

"To evaluate their progress and compare themselves with others, they can submit their prediction results online to get immediate feedback," he explained. "A real-time Kaggle [leader board](#) shows participants their current standing based on their validation set predictions." Niininen has provided a sample *Python* Morse decoder to make it easier to get started.

Niininen said that within the first 24 hours of the competition, he had 33 downloads. "We have already 53 downloads of the materials for this competition," he said on September 5, "and it is growing by the hour, as the word about this challenge is spreading."

Upcoming Events 2014

Coffee with the Hams	8:30 AM Saturdays	Merced Mall Food Court
TARC Board Meeting	October 9th, 6:00 PM	Latif's
Pacificon	October 10th - 12th	Santa Clara
TARC General Meeting	October 14th, 7:00 PM	War Memorial, Turlock
CVC Annual Radio Swap Meet	October 4th	More Info at www.cvantiqueradio.com
Move Your Bones 5K Run/Walk	October 26th	Donnelly Park
Turkey Trot	November 22nd	Donnelly Park

New Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee Set at \$21.40

The ARRL Letter September 4, 2014

The FCC has adjusted very slightly downward -- to \$21.40 -- its proposed Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee for Fiscal Year 2014. In a June *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)*, the Commission said it intended to hike the current \$16.10 vanity fee to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. The FCC released a *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O)* in the proceeding on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase still represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years. The new \$21.40 fee does *not* go into effect until 30 days after the *R&O* is published in [The Federal Register](#).

Turlock Amateur Radio Club

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Officers

Ron Roos, KJ6KNL, President
Darren Nunes, K6RDJ, Vice President
Spencer Boyd, KJ6ART, Secretary
Mike Smith, KG6VFL, Treasurer
Grady Williams, K6IXA, Trustee
Bambi Schmidt, KI6YQL, Sergeant At Arms
Walter Schmidt, KI6PBL, Member at Large
Chris Coffin, K6CP, Member at Large

The ARCOVER is published for the Turlock Amateur Radio Club members.

TARC's meets monthly the second Tuesday of each month. The board meeting is the Thursday prior to the General Meeting.

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